



Georgia's Annual Waterway Cleanup

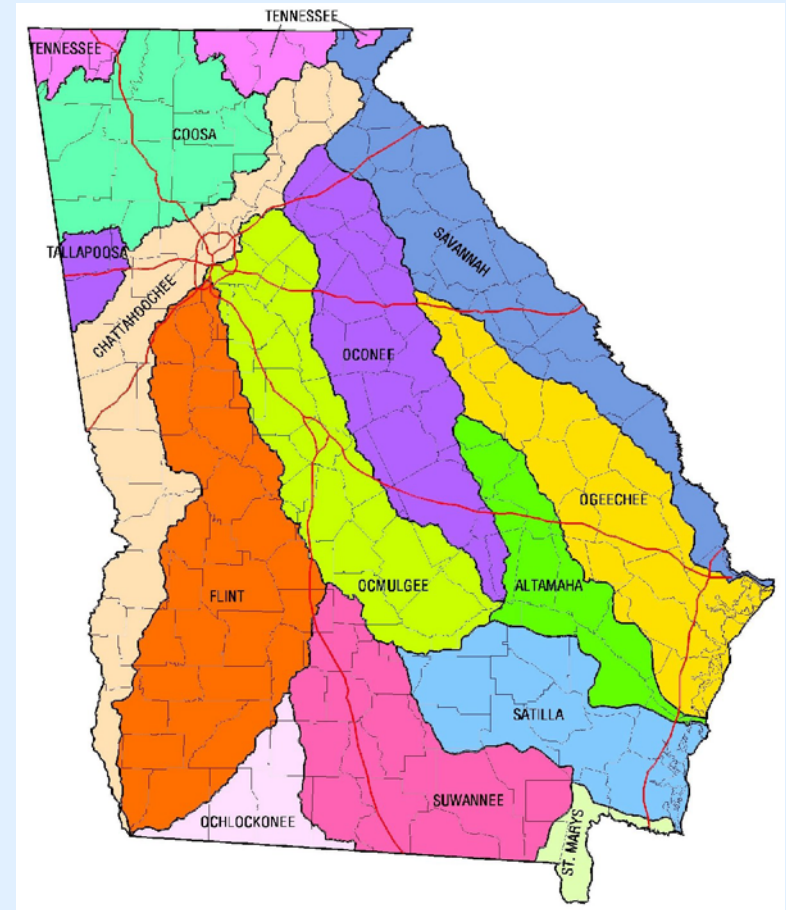
Sponsored by:

**The Georgia Department of Natural Resources'
Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program**

**The Georgia Department of Community Affairs'
Keep Georgia Beautiful Program**

What is Rivers Alive?

- Rivers Alive is a volunteer cleanup event that targets all waterways in the State of Georgia including streams, rivers, lakes, beaches and wetlands.
- Rivers Alive is held annually each October in every Georgia River Basin.



Rivers Alive Mission

The mission of Rivers Alive is to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's water resources through waterway cleanups.



Why should you get involved?

- Georgia has 70,150 miles of streams and rivers that need your help!
- The waterways provide us with drinking water, recreational opportunities and a pleasant respite from our busy day to day lives.

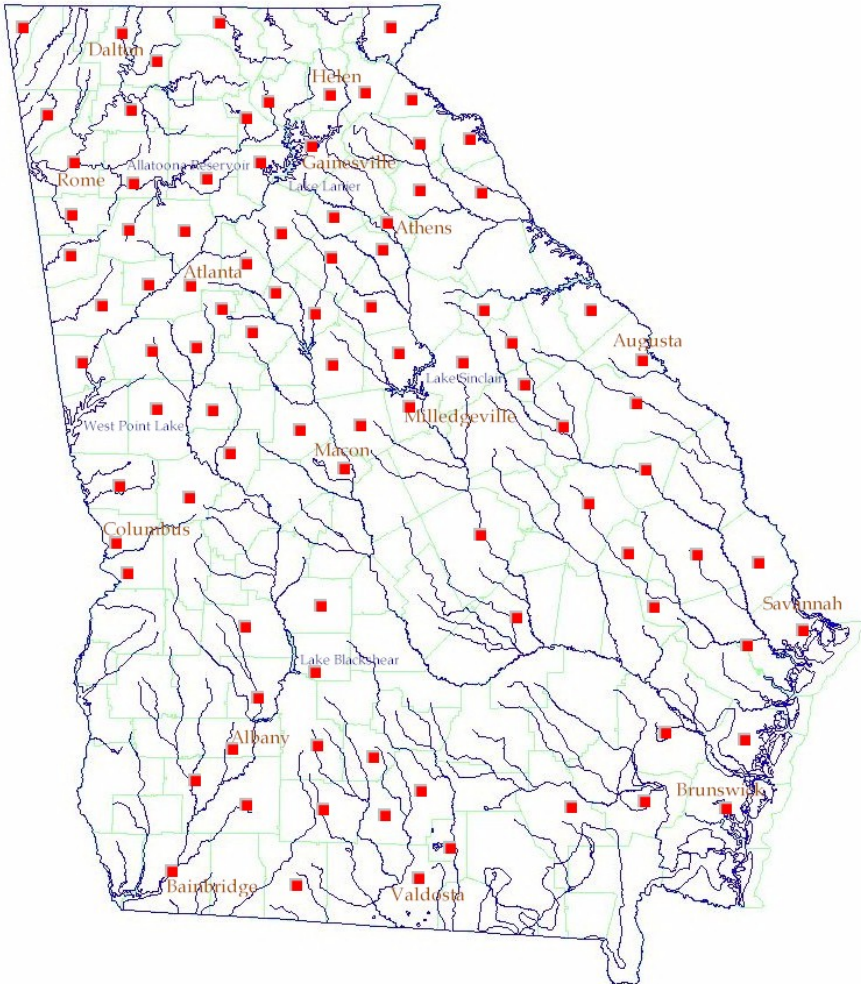




Rivers Alive 2005

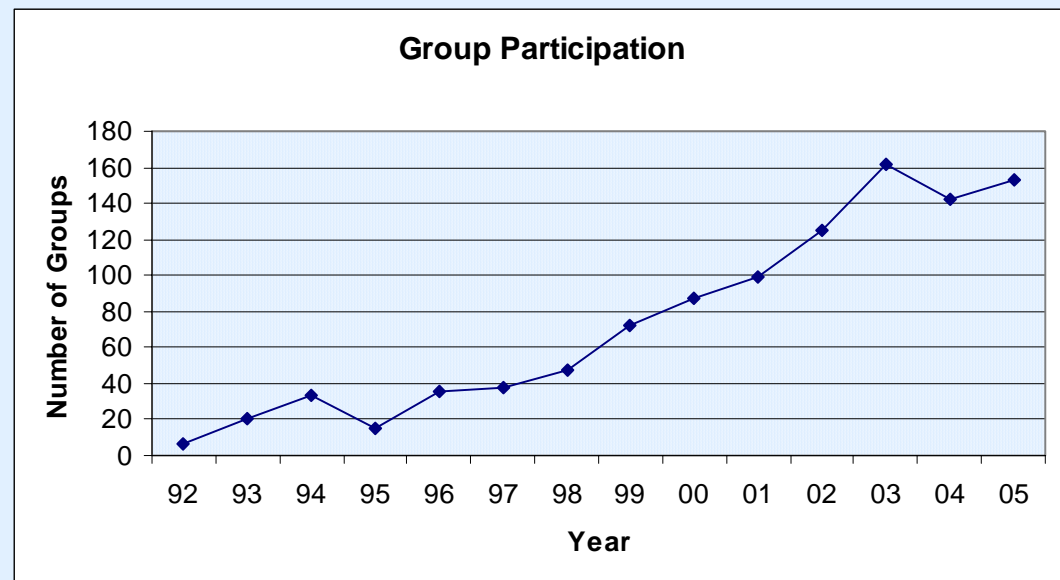
Cleanups Across the State

The number of counties with cleanup events for 2005 was 94 with 7 being in AL & SC



Cleanup in 2005

- As the number of counties involved increased so did the number of individual events with 153 cleanup events in 2005
- 2,919 miles of waterways were cleaned



Volunteer Participation

24,595 volunteers contributed a total of 137,727 hours of work cleaning Georgia's waterways.

4-H holds annual river clean-up

The Oconee River offers recreational opportunities for a lot of Wheeler County citizens. A hard working group of Wheeler County 4-H members and leaders were at the river Monday, October 6th taking part in the twelfth annual Georgia Rivers Alive Clean-Up Project. They visited the boat ramp area on Hwy. 46 to pick up bottles, cans, broken glass, old nets, paper, plastic, metal, Styrofoam, aluminum cans and other types of garbage. The group also found unusual items such as fence posts, rubber tires

and the trunk lid of a car. The Wheeler County 4-H group is just one of the many environmentally friendly groups from all across Georgia who have banded together to clean up Georgia's waterways and rivers. Rivers that were cleaned included the Oconee, Flint, Ocmulgee, Altamaha, Chattahoochee, Coosa, Savannah and the Suwannee. The participants in the Rivers Alive Clean-Up received a special t-shirt in appreciation of their efforts. The Wheeler County 4-H group is listed on the shirt

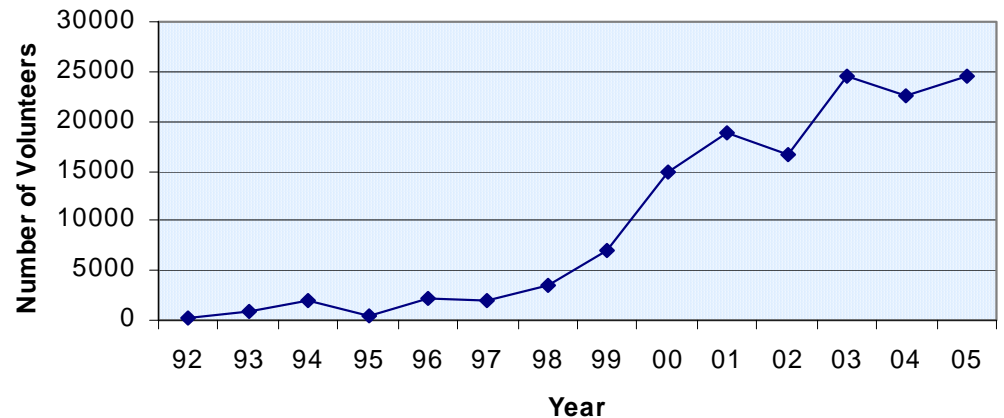
along with the many other groups who took part in the effort. The local 4-H participants were: Ashley Hampton, Cody Thomas, Nikki Ennis, Ricky Wesberry, T.J. Johnson, Hannah Thornton, Brittany Malott, Lori Tribble, Miranda Griffin, Constance Griffin, Kira Hodge, Miran Brown, Asher Smith and 4-H Program Assistant, Regina Mercer. The group was led in this community service project by county Extension coordinator, Mike Hayes.

Tuesday's effort by the 4-H group yielded 15 large bags of litter and numerous other large trash items. Every person who participated picked up at least one full trash bag. This is the twelfth consecutive year that a 4-H group from Wheeler County has participated in the River Clean-Up. The 4-H clubs in Wheeler County carry out several community service projects every year. For more information about Wheeler County 4-H contact your local County Extension Office at (912) 568-7138 or e-mail us at uge4309@uga.edu.



4-H members cleaning up their environment.

Volunteer Participation

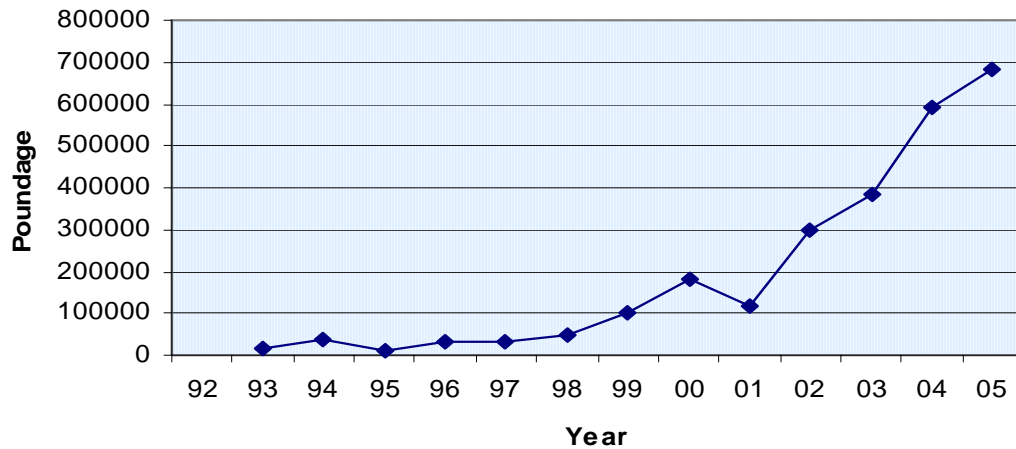


Garbage Collected

- 684,341 lbs of garbage were collected



Pounds of Garbage Collected by Volunteers



2005 Sponsors

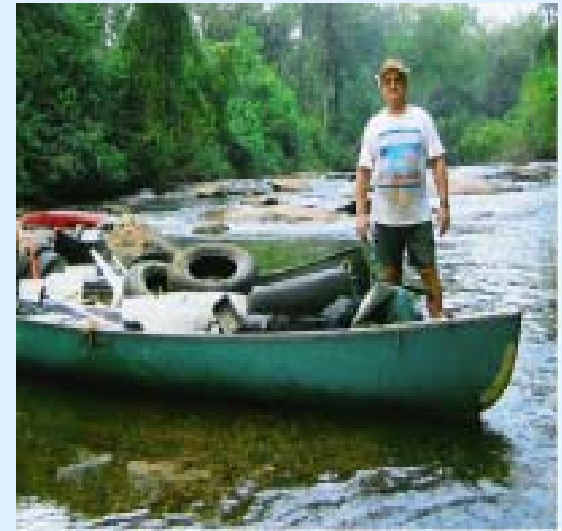
12 state sponsors donated over \$50,000



Advisory Board

Members include:

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream ♦ Keep Georgia Beautiful and Affiliates ♦ Clean Coast, Inc. ♦ Clean Water Campaign ♦ The Coca-Cola Company ♦ Columbus Waterworks ♦ Georgia Land Trust ♦ Georgia Power ♦ Georgia River Network ♦ Georgia Wilderness Society ♦ International Paper ♦ Keep Columbus Beautiful ♦ Macon Water Authority ♦ MeadWestvaco ♦ National Park Service – Chattahoochee National Recreation Area ♦ Ogeechee-Canoochee Riverkeeper ♦ Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center ♦ Plum Creek Timber



How can you get involved?

- Visit our website at www.riversalive.org
- For more information, you can contact:
Mitch Russell, Rivers Alive Coordinator,
Georgia Adopt-A-Stream
Phone: (404) 362.6536
Email: mitch_russell@dnr.state.ga.us



Organizing A Waterway Cleanup

- Getting Started
- The Event Day
- Follow Up
- Incorporating Education Into Rivers Alive

Getting Started

- Organize a Planning Committee
- Site Selection
- Register Cleanup
- Secure Supplies and Support

Getting Started

- Publicize Event
- Recruit and Coordinate Volunteers to Manage Event
- Plan the Day – Group Activity
- Arrange Trash Pickup and Recycling

Day of Event

- Sign In/Registration/Liability
- Introduce Waterway and Site
- Importance of Recording Data
- Safety Talk
- Collect Trash
- Record Data
- Weigh Trash

Follow Up

- Submit Forms
- Evaluate Effort
- Submit Application for Outstanding Waterway Awards

Make Education Part of Rivers Alive

- School and Scout Groups
- Garden Clubs and Civic Organizations
- General Public
- Form Partnerships

THANK YOU!

The Rivers Alive Advisory Board appreciates
your hard work in keeping Georgia's
Waterways clean!

